

on Books, and CelebrateErie. Chapter members regularly speak at local schools on financial literacy and career. The chapter sponsors scholarships open to students in accounting at the local colleges and universities and has made significant contributions to the statewide scholarship program administered by the PICPA.

The Erie Chapter is a diverse group of individuals united by their dedication to serving their clients, employers, and community with integrity, promoting financial literacy and advancing the profession by the maintenance of high ethical standards. I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the efforts of the Erie Chapter of the PICPA and in congratulating its 50 years of service.

**TRIBUTE TO THE USCG TRAINING
CENTER AT TWO ROCK IN
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, every day our Nation's first responders work tirelessly to protect and aid victims of disasters across our country. We have an absolute responsibility to make sure our police forces, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, and public health personnel have the resources they need to effectively confront and overcome threats at the local, State, and national levels.

California's Sixth District is blessed with thousands of dedicated men and women who bravely serve their communities with distinction and honor. I rise today to commend the exemplary leadership of the Fire Department at the United States Coast Guard, USCG, Training Center at Two Rock in Petaluma, California, for their unwavering dedication to improving firefighter health and safety. Fire Chief Alfredo Ramos and the firefighters at the USCG Training Center have reduced fires and firefighter risks throughout the Bay area by providing world-class training to local first responders. We cannot expect local communities to be the first to respond to an emergency unless they are given the resources and training to do so, and the USCG Training Center has been instrumental in this effort.

Madam Speaker, fire departments throughout the country have helped provide our Nation's firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and other first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs safely and efficiently. Today, I am proud to recognize the courageous and committed firefighters at the USCG Training Center in Petaluma who have made immeasurable contributions to public safety, and they deserve our deepest thanks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on February 25 and 26, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #69, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 978, expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7, 2008, as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #70, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 930, supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month."

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #71, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 944, honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #72, on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #73, a motion by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida to order the previous question on adoption of H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #74, on agreeing to H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #75, an amendment offered by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to H.R. 3521. The amendment clarified the intent of an amendment offered by Rep. VELÁZQUEZ and adopted by the Financial Services Committee by ensuring that public housing authorities that apply to HUD for "stop-loss" do not have their applications rejected on the basis that the management and related fees they establish pursuant to this bill are not reasonable as defined by HUD. Additionally, the amendment was a restatement of current law with respect to the ineligibility of illegal immigrants for assistance.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #76, an amendment offered by Mr. MEEK of Florida to H.R. 3521. The amendment holds HUD responsible, in the case of receivership, for performing the same responsibilities that the local housing agencies have in respect to working with tenant associations before building public housing. Additionally, in the case of receivership, before building new public housing HUD must honor any formal agreements entered into before the commencement of such receivership between the local housing authority and the tenant association.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #77, a motion by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to table the motion of Mr. SMITH of Texas to appeal the ruling of the chair that the provisions of the amendment contained in the instructions accompanying the motion to recommit offered by Mr. SMITH were not germane.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

HONORING IOSCO COUNTY CLERK
MICHAEL WELSCH ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan resident who has been an exemplary leader in his community. Michael Welsch is celebrating his retirement after more than 35 years of service to Iosco County, Michigan. Mr. Welsch served as the Iosco County Clerk from 1988 until his retirement on December 31, 2007. But long before that he was serving his community, State and country.

Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force on August 15, 1966, Mr. Welsch was assigned to parachute rigging for technical schooling, where he graduated with honors. On February 14, 1967 he arrived at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan and remained there until he was honorably discharged in May 1970. While serving in the Air Force, Mr. Welsch also began working part-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher/turnkey, working four consecutive days on the job, followed by four consecutive days off.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Air Force he began working full-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as the marine officer. He became the first certified SCUBA diver employed by Iosco County. In this capacity, he was responsible for the recovery of 25 bodies. In 1970, Mr. Welsch attended basic police training at Delta College, where he finished first in his class. In late 1971, he left the Iosco County Sheriff's Department to work in the private sector. But his days of public service were far from over.

Just over a year later, in March 1973, he returned to the Sheriff's Department as a road officer. He was later promoted to detective then detective sergeant. It was during this time that he worked as an undercover narcotics officer throughout the state of Michigan. For his undercover work, Mr. Welsch sported long hair, a beard and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He also trained his cocker spaniel, Brandy, for drug searches.

In April 1977, Mr. Welsch married Debra Roach. Nearly 5 years later, in January 1982, their first son, Andrew, was born. Two years later, in April 1984, their son Peter was born. Peter's tragic death in 2004 brought shock and grief to the Welsch family, yet he remained active as ever with his work in the community.

In 1979, Mr. Welsch was promoted to undersheriff in Iosco County, a position in which he served until December 1984. In January 1985, he accepted a position with the 81st District Court as the probation officer and was later given the additional duties of court administrator. In addition to working in the court, he also worked nights and weekends at Freel's Market in Tawas City, Michigan.

This experience in law enforcement, the private sector and with the court, prepared Mr. Welsch for his next challenge. He successfully ran in 1988 for the position of Iosco County Clerk, a position in which he served until his retirement at the end of last year. He faced opposition in every election, but always prevailed. The community clearly recognized his selfless dedication to public service.